



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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January 9, 2002

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members
FROM: Craig McLaughlin, Policy Manager
RE: Draft of Proposed 2002 State Health Report

Background and Summary

Since 1990, the State Board of Health has been responsible for producing a biennial State Health Report “that outlines the health priorities of the ensuing biennium.” RCW 43.20.50(1)(b) stipulates that the report be produced in January of even numbered years and that the governor must approve, modify, or disapprove the report in March. If approved, the report is to be used by state agency administrators as a guide for preparing agency budgets and executive request legislation for the following biennium—in this case, for 2003-2005.

The attached draft of the proposed report has been reviewed extensively within state government. The heads of DOH, DSHS, and HCA have personally reviewed it, as have the Agency Medical Directors group and staff members for the HRSA grant, the prescription drug project, L&I, OSPI, OIC, and other key agencies and workgroups. Ree Sailors at the Governor’s Policy Office has been in the loop throughout the entire process.

Although many of the inputs to the report were public opinion surveys and comments from the public at the Board’s public forums, there has not been significant review of this draft by stakeholders or the general public.

Staff is therefore recommending that the Board transmit a version of the current draft—amended today as the Board sees fit—to the governor for review. Staff also proposes to circulate the report for external review and comment for 30 days. Afterward, staff will revise the report as necessary and appropriate, then circulate the revised draft to Board members. The Board, at the discretion of the Chair, might then forward a final draft of the proposed report to the Governor for review and action. This would give the Governor sufficient opportunity to modify, approve, or disapprove the report by the March deadline.

Recommended Board Motion

The Board authorizes the Chair to transmit the draft of the proposed State Health Report, as presented January 9 {and amended}, to the governor for review and comment. It directs the staff to solicit public comment on the report until 5 p.m. on February 8, revise the draft as necessary and appropriate, and circulate it one more time to members of the Board for review and comment. At the end of the process, the Chair is authorized by the Board to approve a final draft and transmit it to the Governor for action.